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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 3

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Draft resolution proposed by the Chairman

1994/... Documentation, appointments and related matters

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/14 C of 16 November 1982, 47/202 B of 22 December 1992 and 48/222 B of 23 December 1993,

Noting that excessive length of reports is a significant problem in the timely distribution of documents as they generally exceed the desirable 32-page limit established in the relevant United Nations resolutions,

Noting also that pre-session distribution of reports, including those of the special representatives, special rapporteurs, independent experts and thematic working groups, is necessary to allow thorough, meaningful and reliable consideration by members of the Commission,

Noting that the period between the sessions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights is too short to allow for proper processing of documentation,

Recalling its resolution 1993/94 of 11 March 1994, in which it:

(a) Decided that all reports submitted to the Commission on Human Rights should follow the standards and guidelines established by the General Assembly and that they should not exceed the desirable 32-page limit;

(b) Requested the secretariat to do its utmost to ensure that substantive documents, in particular the reports of the special representatives, special rapporteurs, independent experts and thematic working groups, are distributed in all official languages no less than six weeks before the consideration of all the respective agenda items by the Commission;

(c) Requested the special representatives, special rapporteurs and independent experts of the Commission to do their utmost to submit their reports in time to enable the secretariat to meet the objectives set out in that resolution;

(d) Encouraged countries which extended invitations to special representatives, special rapporteurs, independent experts and thematic working groups to take into account the contents of that resolution;

(e) Requested the Chairman of the Commission, in consultation with the Bureau, to do the utmost to ensure that while considering appointments of special representatives, special rapporteurs and independent experts on the basis of the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, due regard was paid to the appointments being made on as wide a geographical base as possible so that the imbalance in this field was redressed,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to implement rigorously the provisions of its resolution 1993/94 so as to ensure that no reports exceed the limits established by the General Assembly and that all reports are distributed not later than three weeks prior to the opening of the session;

2. Requests all special representatives, special rapporteurs, independent experts and thematic working groups, in consultation with the Centre for Human Rights, to submit their reports in time, so as to allow for distribution at least three weeks before the opening of the session of the Commission;

3. Invites those representatives and rapporteurs who may, by virtue of their mandate, require to make available to the Commission additional information that it was not possible to include in their reports to consult with the Centre for Human Rights;

4. Requests the Chairman to continue to do the utmost to ensure that while considering appointments of special representatives, special rapporteurs and independent experts on the basis of the highest standards of efficiency,

competence and integrity, due regard is paid to the appointments being made on as wide a geographical base as possible so that the imbalance in this field is redressed.

5. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that it authorize the Commission on Human Rights to hold its annual sessions later in the year, and its fifty-first session from 13 March 1995 to 21 April 1995, in order to allow for the proper preparation of documentation for the Commission;

6. Decides to keep the matter under review at its fifty-first session.